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DATE: August 2, 2004

OPERATOR: smh

Attached please find the following Response for:

Patent Application: 09/015,616

Filed: January 29, 1998

Our Ref: FA/141A

Letter of Transmittal (1 page)
Request for Continued Examination (1 page)
Response To Final Office Action (3 pages)
Petition for Extension of Time (1 page)

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Attorney Docket No.: FA/141A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Norvell et al.

Serial No.: 09/015,616

Filed January 29, 1998

Of roup Art Unit: 1771

Examiner: C. Juska

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) Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box
1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on
August 2, 2004.

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 23313-1450

Suzanne M. Heam

August 2, 2004 (date of faxing document)

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Dear Sir:

OFFICIAL

We enclose the following papers for filing in the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified Patent Application:

- Request for Continued Examination (1 page)
- 2. Response to Final Office Action (3 pages)
- 3. Petition for Extension of Time (1 page)

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND IS REQUESTED TO CHARGE ALL FILING FEES DUE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.16 AND ALL OTHER FEES DUE UNDER SECTION 1.17 DURING THE PENDENCY OF THIS APPLICATION TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 07-1729.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Boland, 36,090 W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

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Newark, DE 19714-9206

(302) 738-4880

Date: August 2, 2004